

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 AID-20 NEAE-00 DRC-01 /108 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDIYIMMEDIATE 9520

INFO DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T LONDON 04609

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, CY, UK, US

SUBJECT: NIMBUS STAR

REF: (A) LONDON 4554, (B) STATE 73371, (C) STATE 71363,

(D) STATE 73326, (E) STATE 73325

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH WIGGIN (ASST UNDERSECRETARY, FCO) AND OTHER FCO OFFICIALS THIS MORNING TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTELS AND EXCHANGE LATEST POSITIONS ON SUBJECT OPERATION. BRITISH PLEASED WE ABLE TO ACCEPT THEIR PROPOSED PRESS LINE (REF A) AND NOTED THE MAGNEADY HAD GRANTED CLEARANCE REQUESTS FOR FIRST C-141 AND C-55 TO LAND AT AKROTIRI. THEY ALSO RELIEVED THAT NO JOURNALISTS ARE TOHQ INCLUDED ON FLIGHTS INTO SBAS.

PER OUR REQUEST BRITISH WILL MAKE NO PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT ON NIMBUS STAR OPERATION. WHEN AKROTIRI USE BECOMES PUBLIC (AS INEVITABLY MUST), FCO PLANS TO CONFIRM ON THE RECORD THAT THEY HAVE MADE SBAS AVAILABLE TO U.S. IN CONNECTION WITH CLEARANCE OF THE CANAL. IF

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PRESSED, HMG RESERVES RIGHT CONFIRM ON THE RECORD THAT

AKROTIRI USE "...HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AND ENDORSED BY INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS".

3. BRITISH HICOMER NICOSIA WILL BE SEEING KHRISTOFIDES (MAKARIOS IS UNAVAILABLE UNTIL AFTER EASTER) TO TRY DISSUADE GOC FROM MAKING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON NIMBUS STAR, BUT BRITS HAVE NO FEEL FOR LIKELY OUTCOME. HICOMER ALSO BEING INSTRUCTED TAKE UP ALLIED MATTERS AT SAME TIME (SEE SEPTTEL).

4. FCO HAS REVIEWED TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH GOE (REFS C AND D) AND SAYS IT NEITHER PRESENTS PROBLEMS NOR UNDERCUTS HMG'S POSITION. THEY WILL REVIEW THEIR DRAFT TO MAKE IT AS COMPATIBLE AS POSSIBLE AND ARE INSTRUCTING THEIR AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO TO COORDINATE WITH U.S. EMBASSY CAIRO WITH A VIEW TO APPROACHING THE GOE IMMEDIATELY AFTER AMBASSADOR EILTS MAKES HIS PRESENTATION ON 13 APRIL.

5. WE ALSO PASSED DRAFT NOTE ON STATUS OF FORCES IN SBAS (REF E) TO WIGGIN. HE PROMISED TO HAVE IT EXAMINED CAREFULLY AND TO BE BACK TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN VIEW OF CLOSEDOWN OF MOD AND FCO AT NOON TODAY FOR 4 DAY WEEKEND, HOWEVER, EARLIEST EMBASSY CAN EXPECT TO HEAR WOULD BE LATE 16 APRIL. WE TALKED SUBSEQUENTLY TO WORKING LEVEL FCO AND MOD CONTACTS WHO STATED THAT OUR NOTE FOLLOWED ROUGHLY THE SAME LINES AS THEIR THINKING ON THESE MATTERS.

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